

RESOLVED: IMITATORS

“WHENEVER I HEAR ANYTHING SPOKEN IN CONVERSATION OF ANY PERSON, IF I THINK IT WOULD BE PRAISEWORTHY IN ME, RESOLVED TO ENDEAVOR TO IMITATE IT.”—JONATHAN EDWARDS



“Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.”

— 3 John 1:11 (NASB '95)

Valley Grace Brethren Church of Armagh
March 23rd, AD 2025

THE LORD'S DAY

The Twenty-third Day of March, *in the Year of our Lord 2025*



- ONE · IS · YOUR · MASTER · AND · ALL · YE · ARE · BRETHREN -



Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!

Sunday School—9:30 AM.

Our series on Church History examines the forerunners to the Reformation as we wrap-up our studies in the Medieval Church.

Morning Worship—10:30 AM.

Call to Worship:* *"Alleluia!"* (#516; v. 4 only).

Invocation.*

Hymn: *"The Church's One Foundation"* (#77).

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: 3 John.

Prayer, Praises, & Testimony.

Hymn: *"Higher Ground"* (#280).

Announcements.

Hymn: *"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"* (#80).*

Dismissal for Children's Church.

Message: *"IMITATORS."*

Closing Hymn:* *"Take Time to be Holy"* (#415).

Benediction.*

**Please stand, if able.*



Week of March 9 – March 15

Sunday School—6; Morning Worship—I3;

Offering—\$354.⁰⁰

Midweek Prayer & Bible Study—5.

Video: *"RESOLVED: Part IV"*—121 views

Cover Art: *"RESOLVED!"* by Pastor Terry L. Reese

The Cambria County Christian School was blessed with \$41 G's being raised this week at its annual spring banquet fundraiser!



Midweek Prayer & Bible Study: Thursday at 6:30 PM.



PRAYER REQUEST FOR INDIA (3/22/25)

Due to the persecution of believers in India, the names have been concealed.

Dear Praying Brethren,



It is with great sadness of heart that I inform you concerning one of the young church planters in India. **M%*&***, a Practorium student and elder/church planter in-training, died from being hit by a truck in **%\$@*\$^**. At least, that is the report that I have received so far. **Brother H_____** did not have the details when he contacted me last night.

M%*&*'s father is upset with **Brother K_____** over this and also the villagers are blaming him. **Brother K_____** had been discipling **M%*&*** for the past 5 years and **M%*&*** was assisting **Brother K_____** in the ministry. So, please pray for **M%*&***'s family and the situation. **K_____**, who is also grieving deeply over this, needs your prayers; he and his family. Thank you for your prayers. Pastor X_____



This year's **ALLEGHENY DISTRICT CONFERENCE** will be held at the **Reading GBC** (Stoystown) on **Sat., May 17**. The theme will be "**REFLECTIONS OF THE SON**," and will feature messages from **Pastors Larry Weigle** (Moderator) and **Chris Knight** (Vice Moderator), as well as Men's and Ladies' breakout sessions. Registration & Refreshments will be at **9:00am**; the First Session will be at **9:30am**. **LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED!**

IMITATORS OF GOOD

Pastor Terry L. Reese, Valley GBC of Armagh, PA (3/22/25)

3John 1:11: Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.

In the brief Epistle of 3rd John, we are entreated to two sorts of example—**Diotrephes** (*bad*), and **Gaius & Demetrius** (*good*). **Gaius** is commended for walking in the truth (vv. 3-4), for his hospitality, and for his support of the Brethren (vv. 5-8). **Demetrius** is also commended by the Apostle, for being a man of good report and testimony (v. 12).

Diotrephes (vv. 9-10), however, is condemned by John for his pride, self-exaltation, refusal to extend hospitality to the Brethren, and for his high-handed treatment of others in the church—even rejecting counsel from John the Apostle! Diotrephes was not under John’s censure for some formal *doctrinal* aberration, but rather, for *living a LIFE that was in contradiction to the basic principles of the Gospel!*

In **3 John 1:11** we are called to “**mimic**” (derived from the Greek *mimeomai*) that which is good and reject imitating that which is evil.

Mimeomai is also employed in **2 Thess. 3:7 & 9**, when Paul advises the Thessalonian believers to imitate his *own* example. This was a *daring* thing for the Apostle to say—but yet, leaders are *called* to set such an example for their people (1Tim. 3:1-7), and Paul’s walk was such that he was *able* to boldly say such a thing! Paul uses kindred terminology (*mimētēs*; “imitator”) in **1Cor. 11:1**: “*Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.*”

Returning to 3 John 1:11: “*Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good.*”

In the **general sense**, the counsel admonishes us not to follow anything that is hateful to the Holy and Righteous God of Grace, Love, Mercy, and Truth. Contextually, in the **particular sense**, we are called to disdain the egotistical, unloving, disorderly example of Diotrephes. Rather, let us strive to be merciful, loving, and kind—imitating that which is GOOD!

Again, 3 John 1:11: “*The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.*” John’s three epistles have *various tests* by which we can identify a Christian: **obedience** (1John 2:3-4), **sound doctrine** (1John 4:2-3), **rejection of the world & sin** (1John 2:15, 3:6), and **love for the Brethren** (1John 4:7). The licentious, the unmerciful, and the unkind have not seen God; they have no personal knowledge of Him whose Name is mercy, and whose Nature is love (1John 3:10). Let us ultimately be imitators of **God** (Eph. 5:1), in whose Image we were Created, and of **Christ**, the true Model for Humanity (1Pet. 2:21-22)!